

Contributions

THOSE "HORNS"

P. J. BROWN

Brother Nicholson in EVANGELIST No. 29 makes a sharp little drive at Brother Gnagey, which for witicism and a little good natured fun is really not so slow. But when the subject is viewed from a standpoint of candor there is not a particle of argument in it against the utility or proper use of the proposed catechism for the Brethren church.

Well now, Brother John, I remember quite well hearing you preach many years ago that Samuel anointed Saul out of a vial and David out of a horn and you explained this difference as typical of the weakness of Saul's kingdom and the strength of David's; that Saul's was brittle as glass and David's tough and strong as the horn; all of which I enjoyed as a pretty good illustration at all events.

But now, my dear old chum, what is the matter with the horn? I am afraid we have been anointed out of the vial too long already. How many churches does Brother Cassel say are without pastors? I do not wish to repeat it; it makes an ugly gash in the ranks, but plainly points to anointments out of the brittle glass vial. What of the coaxing, urging, and almost shaming, the delinquent subscribers? What of the pleading for our almost famished mission points? What of the unsatisfactory and half dead condition of a number of our churches? But I blush; I will not enumerate any further, but all points unmistakably toward the brittle glass vial anointing.

Yes, Brother John, "the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation" but who is to interpret that gospel? every one to suit his own fancy? Ah, that has been tried long enough, it is the brittle glass vial anointing.

I fully agree with brother B. C. Moomaw in No. 29. Let the brotherhood discuss his plan. I think there is the strength of the horn in it.

Brother Gnagey, in my opinion, made a mistake when he told us the catechism in question had no horn. God created the horn of the ox as well as the tail and it is of infinitely more service. While the tail serves a good purpose to brush off the flies, the horn is a strong instrument of offense and defense and the latter day system of dehorning is an effort to prevent the use of this valuable equipment nature provided. I am in favor of the proposed catechism, or something to bring us into a better state of organization and if horns are necessary let us have them. It is to be devoutly hoped that we have the good sense and executive ability in our body as yet to propose and adopt some methods of church government that we need not be afraid of creed, tho it has the strength and the elasticity of the horn as you so beau-

tifully portrayed to me many years ago. Brother John, do you remember?

Congress, Ohio

THE CHURCH PAPER

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This communication was suggested by the reading of an article that recently appeared in *The Christian Intelligencer*, under the same caption, and from which several quotations will be made.

The church paper is defined as a weekly (better at times weakly) addressing itself to the constituency of a particular portion of the church universal. Not unlike the undenominational paper it is set for and seeks the development of individual life and character. But it has also a definite work to do—a definite place to fill in the life of the church. It is first here that many denominational papers fail. They model themselves too much after the style of the undenominational paper and lose sight of the particular and peculiar work they have to do. It should be insisted upon that the first aim of the church paper should be the development of Christian life and activity in its own constituency. In the second place it must seek to inform its constituency what the church it represents aims at and is doing in the individual churches, in missions, in education and general benevolence. There should be departments sustained for each of these distinct fields of church activity. The distinctive teachings of the church should be frequently set forth and an application made of them to the problems of the present day. The church paper can in this way promote a healthy *esprit du corps* and of loyalty to the truth as held by the denomination of which it is the organ.

The value of the church paper can not be unduly emphasized. Churches appreciate this and no denomination is found so small that does not support at the least one such paper. It serves as a channel of communication between its members and churches. It becomes the exponent of its doctrines, polity and aggressive work. Indeed it is not saying too much to say that no denomination can sustain a distinctive existence for a long time without the church paper. If the church has any apology for its existence, if it stands for something valuable in the economy of God, it must needs have some means of exchanging views, discussing matters of polity and of keeping the churches in touch with each other. Viewed in this light the church paper is as essential to the growth and continuance of the church as the theological school or the various boards thru which it does its conserving or aggressive work. The church paper then ought to be endowed no less than colleges, seminaries and mission boards. This truth has been already appreciated and several church papers have been sufficiently endowed.

Every pastor (?) appreciates the worth of the church paper in his work. It becomes

his most valuable assistant in his efforts to develop Christian character and activity. He always finds it easier to enlist in the activities of his own church those that keep themselves in touch with the general work of the whole church. He finds it much easier and pleasanter to present the general work of the church and its needs to the persons that have kept themselves in touch with this work. The "stay at home" policy so fatally present in many churches can be attributed to a lack of readers of the church paper. It may be said that the circulation of the church paper is a pretty accurate determinant of a church's interest in the denomination and its specific work. No member of the church alive to his best interests and the best interests of the church will fail to bring himself into touch with the life and activity of the church as they find expression thru the church organ; and the minister that fails to do so is unworthy his profession and a cheat upon the people that sustain him.

A reply may be made that the paper is not what it ought to be. The truth of this statement will readily be granted. It would be an unhappy condition if it was, for then there would be nothing to strive after. But very few persons appreciate the cost and the difficulty of making the church paper. The profit of publishing a church paper is seriously diminished because it is almost wholly cut off from a source of income that makes cheap papers and magazines possible. No periodical can be published at a moderate price on the receipts from subscriptions alone. Our cheap magazines and dailies are made possible thru advertisements. The church paper is compelled from the necessity of the case to forego this source of income. Again the purely denominational paper can not compete with the undenominational paper. The latter will of necessity enjoy the larger circulation. The church paper will be limited in circulation to its own denomination. It must be seen then that the church paper will be limited in its resources. Consequently it can pay nothing or next to nothing for its contributions and a paper wholly satisfactory can not be sustained upon voluntary contributions. Many that find fault with the EVANGELIST seem never to appreciate this fact. Fault is found with the price without recognizing the fact that conditions beyond the control of the Board or Editor make necessary. *The Evangelist is a low priced denominational weekly.* I have several now before me no better, the subscription price of which is two dollars per year. It is foolish to compare the price of the EVANGELIST with that of the *Christian Herald* and others that have the whole Christian world for their constituency and no particular doctrines or polity to defend and propagate. No member wholly in sympathy with the doctrines and polity of the church will ever fail to subscribe for the EVANGELIST because of the price. If the church stands for something—if it has a place and work in extending the kingdom of